

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 6, and 11 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
image carrying members; member; and  
an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying members member at first and second transfer positions,  
wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,  
wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,  
wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from said nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material, and  
wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $L_{ab}$ , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as  $L_r$ , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $L_m$ :

Lr – Lm > Lab,

wherein a toner image of an image is transferred onto said intermediate transfer body after toner images of the previous image are entirely formed on said intermediate transfer body where the toner images are formed successively.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is immobilized in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body where the toner images are formed successively.

3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Original)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate transfer body has a surface resistivity from  $10^7$  Ohm per square ( $\Omega/\square$ ) to  $10^{12}$  Ohm per square( $\Omega/\square$ ).

5. **(Currently Amended)** The image forming apparatus comprising:  
image carrying members; member; and  
an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying members member at first and second transfer positions,  
wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,

wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from said nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $Lab$ , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as  $Lr$ , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $Lm$ :

$$Lr - Lm > Lab, \text{ and}$$

wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on a downstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body at each image formation where the toner images are formed successively.

**6. (Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
image carrying members; member; and  
an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying members member at first and second transfer positions,

wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,

wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $Lab$ , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as  $Lr$ , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $Lm$ :

$$Lr - Lm \leq Lab,$$

wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body at each image formation where the toner images are formed successively, and

wherein a toner image of an image is transferred onto said intermediate transfer body after toner images of the previous image are entirely formed on said intermediate transfer body where the toner images are formed successively.

**7. (Cancelled)**

**8. (Original)** The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said intermediate transfer body has a surface resistivity from  $10^7$  Ohm per square( $\Omega/\square$ ) to  $10^{12}$  Ohm per square( $\Omega/\square$ ).

**9. (Previously Presented)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a cleaning device is disposed at a certain position around said intermediate transfer body.

**10. (Previously Presented)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a cleaning device is disposed at a certain position around said intermediate transfer body.

**11. (Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
image carrying members; member; and  
an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying members member at first and second transfer positions,  
wherein a toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,  
wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from a nearest image carrying member on a downstream side in a moving

direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,  
wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying member on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,  
wherein the following relationship is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $Lab$ , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as  $Lr$ , and a maximum length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as  $Lm$ :

$$Lr - Lm \leq Lab, \text{ and}$$

wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on a upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body so that distance between a first toner image and a second toner image is larger than the length  $Lab$  at each image formation where the toner images are formed successively.